

consciousness of America so that now more than 90 percent of Americans support universal background checks.

A comparable number support emergency risk protection orders known as red flag statutes. Seventeen States now have them and increased substantially after Parkland, and they are not alone. They are joined by survivors from countless communities—too many communities. They are joined by law enforcement officials, first responders, and emergency room nurses and doctors who have the firsthand education about what gun violence does to a human body and a human mind. They are joined also by advocates and activists and community leaders from every community across the country because this epidemic affects everyone. They are the true leaders of this movement, and I am proud to stand with them today as I do every day.

My hope is that a new Congress will break this complicity and that we will move forward, that a new Congress will break the inaction, and then a new President will change the dynamic, not only in this Congress but in the country, and take advantage of the historic opportunity we have.

With a new administration, we have not only this momentous opportunity but also a moral imperative. We have that opportunity to enact strong, commonsense gun violence prevention measures and, in addition, although no substitute for legislative action, strong Executive action to enhance the effectiveness of background checks, to stop the spread of ghost guns, to take other measures that are within the power of the President alone, and to make sure that we explore and use every possible opportunity.

The States will continue acting alone if the Federal Government fails to join them. States like Connecticut and others around the country who want to protect their citizens will continue to be proactive.

We mark this painful anniversary with renewed resolve—resolve to continue to honor, with positive action, those whose lives were lost at Sandy Hook but also to redouble our efforts to educate and enlist our fellow citizens. It is long past time; 8 years is a long time—much too long for this inaction.

Our hearts still ache. Our anger still burns. Our grief and pain are still there. For those families, they will never go away. But make no mistake, this pandemic is no excuse for inaction. If anything, COVID-19 has raised the number of gun purchases and increased the number of guns posing dangers in our neighborhoods. It has heightened the stress and anxiety of people who might use those guns in incidents of domestic violence. It has expanded the jeopardies of suicide and self-destructive behavior.

We have no excuse for inaction because of the pandemic. We have every reason to feel a greater sense of urgency now, in the midst of this pan-

demic, to stop the epidemic of gun violence.

Let us draw from the strength and fortitude of these brave families and loved ones—not only in Sandy Hook but survivors and loved ones everywhere—and say, finally, boldly, unapologetically, that enough is enough. Enough is enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### COLLEGIATE ATHLETE AND COMPENSATION RIGHTS ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, those of you who have taken time out to watch college sports this fall—and I know there are many in this Chamber who have, and they know that the games this year have looked very different when you compare them to previous years' games. A lot has changed for these young players, but they are no less popular with their fans and no less important to the success and prominence of the academic institutions they represent.

For a while now, I have been joined by other members of the Commerce Committee as we have tried to resolve the tension that exists between the NCAA and college sports stars over a student athlete's right to earn compensation for the use of their name, image, or likeness. This is called the NIL issue.

Last week, Senator WICKER, who is chairman of the Commerce Committee, introduced the Collegiate Athlete and Compensation Rights Act, which would finally create a uniform national framework to allow student athletes to receive that compensation without the risk of losing their amateur status and without falling into traps set by dishonest outside parties looking to exploit their fame.

Normally, we don't make too much hay over a bill introduction, but just getting everyone to the table is a first step that student athletes have wanted to see happen for a while. And I thank Chairman WICKER and Senator MORAN for backing this legislation.

I do want to point out that the reason the Senate has stepped in is because the NCAA just never could get around to addressing this issue. They kept kicking the can down the road. They kept sending it to one committee and to another committee, and the NCAA has shown very little determination to solve this issue for these young athletes. Because the leadership at the NCAA has proven unable and has shown an inability to address this, we have stepped up to address this issue. Our student athletes deserve more respect than they have been shown by the NCAA.

(Mr. BOOZMAN assumed the Chair.)

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Now, Mr. President, on another topic, 2020 has been a very difficult year, but there have been a few rays of sunshine this year in spite of the quarantines and the social distancing.

We were still able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amend-

ment and the suffragists who fought so diligently and consistently for 72 years for passage of the 19th Amendment. Much of this celebration of activism and equal rights focused on Nashville, TN, where the suffragists gathered in the summer of 1920. At the center of that battle for the votes sat the Hermitage Hotel, which served as the headquarters and played host to some of the most important negotiations surrounding the Tennessee Legislature's final vote on the amendment.

This year, the National Park Service honored the Hermitage Hotel and the suffragists who fought those battles by designating the site as a national historic landmark. As a female lawmaker, this designation was especially important to me. This Congress, I had the pleasure of serving here in the Senate alongside a fantastic group of women who were living proof of how far we have come since August 18, 1920.

Unfortunately, this year we were also reminded of how far we yet have to go.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, even before President Trump officially nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat on the Supreme Court, liberals in the media and many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle unfortunately—well, they took it upon themselves to be the first to question Judge Barrett's fitness. But rather than attacking her record, they launched some truly insulting attacks on her religion, her family, her relationship with her husband, and her choice to balance a stunning career with a large, blended family.

You can count on the left to choose intellectual isolation, and you can count on them to look at a woman on the political right and say: If you are pro-family, pro-religion, pro-business, pro-military, pro-life, we do not want to hear from you.

Those attacks may have made the American people cringe, but they certainly didn't turn public opinion against Judge Barrett's confirmation. That campaign failed miserably. If anything, it provided a much needed reminder that, just like the fight for suffrage in the 1920s, the modern woman's fight for equality in 2020 is about more than succeeding in a single job or engaging in a single civic action; it is about exercising our right to participate in democracy and engage in the public square without having to throw ourselves at the mercy of the left's moving goalpost that they use to arbitrarily define what is and is not an acceptable way of life.

Justice Barrett is now the third Justice President Trump has placed on the Supreme Court. She is in good company because she is part of a class of 229 Federal judges confirmed so far under President Trump, 144 of them during this Congress. And I expect that we will see a few more join the ranks before we adjourn for Christmas, including two Tennesseans who are on this list.